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10/507,095	09/03/2004	Gerhard Tuymer	J423-019 US	1923

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NOTARO AND MICHALOS
100 DUTCH HILL ROAD
SUITE 110
ORANGEBURG, NY 10962-2100

EXAMINER

BAND, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1795

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/507,095	Applicant(s) TUYMER ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL BAND	Art Unit 1795	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Manley (US Patent No. 5,993,613).

With respect to claims 1 and 13, Manley discloses a film deposition apparatus [10] depositing a film [12] of material onto a substrate [16] by sputtering from a target/cathode assembly [20] by generating a plasma [38] with a vacuum pump [28] attached a process chamber [18] (abstract; fig. 1), with fig. 1 depicting the cathode [20] and anode [18] (i.e. two electrodes) spaced apart with the plasma [38] between said cathode [20] and anode [18] (col. 4, lines 1-6). Fig. 1 further depicts an AC source [82] powering a plasma discharge, with said AC source [82] connected to a rectifier [80], with fig. 6 depicting said rectifier [80] connected to a converter circuit [94]. Fig. 6 depicts a bridge circuit [81], [83], [95]-[98], controlled via a current control [13], connected to an output of converter circuit [94]. Manley discusses the pulses given to the cathode and anode as being at a frequency in the range of about 20 kHz to about 80 kHz (col. 12, lines 3-7). Fig. 1 also depicts a transformer [100] leading to the bridge circuit [81], [83], [95]-[98] with said transformer [100] having a primary winding [49] and a secondary winding [101], where said secondary winding [101] has two connections to bridge circuit

Art Unit: 1795

[81], [83], [95]-[98] where said bridge circuit [81], [83], [95]-[98] is connected to polarity reversing circuit [64] which has a potential-free generator output (i.e. +/- signs), which is depicted in fig. 8 as being connected to the cathode [20] and anode [18]. Manley further discloses the polarity reversing circuit [64] periodically reverses a polarity on the sputter deposition apparatus (abstract), where fig. 5 depicts the polarity reversal signals as pulsed.

With respect to claims 2-3, Manley further discloses an output voltage of the rectifier [80], and therefore the input of the converter circuit [94], as in the range of 100 volts to 1000 volts and a power in the range of 1 kw to 15 kw (col. 13, lines 34-39). Manley also specifies that the bridge circuit [81], [83], [95]-[98] are rated at 500 volts and 71 amps (col. 13, lines 56-60). Manley also discusses an inductance value of 0.3 mH (col. 13, lines 29-42). However Manley is limited in that a specific output voltage and current for the converter circuit [94] is not provided. It is either inherent or obvious to use a voltage and/or current with a voltage transformation ratio no greater 1:2, as evidenced by Melnychuk et al (US Patent No. 6,815,700; abstract; col. 22, lines 50-57).

With respect to claims 4-5 and 7-8, Manley further discloses a modulated output signal [66] produced via a rectifier [80] and converter circuit [94] (col. 13, lines 6-9), where said modulated output signal [66] has a turn-on and turn-off parameter, with said turn-on and turn-off parameter having a range of 5 microseconds to 200 microseconds and the entire duration of a pulse is in the range of 0.5 milliseconds to 10 milliseconds (col. 5, lines 42-59). Fig. 5 depicts the modulated output signal [66] as a bipolar pulse. Fig. 6 further depicts a circuit node [81] of the bridge circuit [81], [83], [95]-[98] which can short circuit the primary winding [49] via switching [95] and switching [96].

With respect to claim 6, Manley further discloses in fig. 6 a current control [13] and a pulse generator [109] for the bridge circuit [81], [83], [95]-[98].

With respect to claim 9-12, Manley further discloses in fig. 6 also depicts a diode bridge [102]-[105] succeeding the converter circuit [94], with said converter circuit [94] being a phase shift converter (col. 12, lines 48-51). Since Manley depicts in fig. 6 multiple bridge circuits [81], [83], [95]-[98] and [102]-[105], it is obvious that one of ordinary skill in the art to use four bridges with each bridge having a similar design to either the first bridge circuit [81], [83], [95]-[98] and/or the second bridge [102]-[105].

With respect to claims 15-19, Manley further discloses sputter deposition using reactive sputtering for depositing SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , Si_3N_4 , and TiO (i.e. dielectric materials) (abstract; col. 1, lines 51-62). Manley also discloses using various reactive gases such as oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen sulfide (col. 8, lines 49-51).

With respect to claim 20, Manley further discloses reactively depositing aluminum oxide (col. 1, lines 51-62), with it being either inherent or obvious for aluminum to have alpha- and gamma-phases.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Manley (US Patent No. 5,993,613) as applied to claim 13, and further in view of Latz et al (US Patent No. 5,026,471).

With respect to claim 14, the reference is cited as discussed for claim 13. However Manley is limited in that only one target (i.e. deposition electrode) is disclosed as comprising the two spaced apart electrodes.

Latz et al teaches coating a substrate with aluminum oxide, in addition to SiO_2 and titanium, via reactive sputtering using a DC source (abstract; col. 2, lines 23-28; col.

Art Unit: 1795

4, lines 10-14). Latz et al further teaches in fig. 1 a reactive sputtering system having an ovally shaped target (i.e. first deposition electrode) [3] and a second target (i.e. second deposition electrode) [33] mounted on a centrally disposed insulator (col. 2, lines 50-52).

Since Latz et al and Manley teach an apparatus for the reactive sputtering of aluminum oxide, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the second sputtering target taught by Latz et al for the apparatus of Manley to achieve the predictable result of sputter depositing an aluminum oxide coating onto a substrate.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection due to new claim limitations

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 1795

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Band whose telephone number is (571) 272-9815. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexa Neckel can be reached on (571) 272-1446. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. B./

Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/PATRICK RYAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795

Application/Control Number: 10/507,095
Art Unit: 1795

Page 7